



Office of the Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

Student Essay Contest 2021

Official Rules

Essay Topic(s):

1. Why is it important to increase diversity?
2. What is the most inspiring story you learned from Black History?

Purpose

This contest is sponsored by Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome to give young people an opportunity to develop their own views around a central idea. In addition to the opportunity for educational initiative and written expression, participants have the chance to win a financial award!

How to Enter

Interested students should submit essays on the assigned topic to the Mayor's Office. Select community leaders will judge the essays at the City-Parish level. All submissions will be run through a plagiarism checker before being forwarded to the judges.

Eligibility Criteria

The contest is open to graduating seniors and Juniors—Class of 2021 who are under the age of 20 as of June 1st of the current contest year. Students must reside in East Baton Rouge Parish and attend high school within the Parish at the time of entry.

Contestants must compose an original essay with no guidance from others. Webster's Dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretive literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.

Terms of Participation

1. Only one submission is allowed per participant.
2. All entries will be checked for plagiarism. Plagiarized essays will be rejected and the participant will be banned from participating in any future competition as well.
3. The decision of the judges will be final and binding.
4. Mayor-President Broome/City of Baton Rouge reserves the right to use all the submitted entries for whatsoever purpose they deem fit.
5. Language for the essays will be English only.
6. Individual students should be the only author of their essay. Co-authorship is not allowed.
7. Formats accepted are .doc, .docx
8. The Essay document name should be in this format: CityofBREassy_Your Name
9. Submissions are open from February 12, 2021, to Midnight March 8, 2021
10. No hard copy submissions will be accepted. All essay submissions must be submitted by email to the following email address equitycommission@brla.gov. Incomplete forms without all details will be rejected.
11. Write: Title of the Essay, Name of the Author, Phone number and email of the author, School name, and Class (Senior) at the start of the essay.
12. Mayor-President Broome/City of Baton Rouge will not be liable for any copyright violation by the author of the essay.
13. The top five winning entries will be announced by March 15, 2021, and the winners will be notified by email and phone call.
14. Confirmation of availability to accept the award by the winners to be confirmed to Mayor-President Broome/City of Baton Rouge by March 29, 2021.
15. All contestants must provide age and identification from their birth certificate or passport before participating. A copy of the document is mandatory for winners.

Length

500-1,000 words (Title, footnotes, and bibliography are not included in the final word count). Hyphenated words count as one (1) word. Words are to be counted manually.

Judging Deadlines

The deadline for students to submit essays is by **midnight on March 8th**.

Prizes

Financial Awards in the increments of \$1000 (first place); \$500 (second place); \$250 (third place), \$100 (fourth place), and \$50 (fifth place). The top 10 essays will be displayed on the Commission on Racial Equity and Inclusion website.

All awards will be payable directly to the student and will not be extended to any other named person.

Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official essay contest topic.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school, and date of birth.
3. At the top of Page 1 should be the official topic and the number of words (A penalty of points for lack of topic and for failure to identify the total number of words correctly will be deducted).
4. Essays must be typewritten and double spaced. (No handwritten essays will be received for judging).
5. Essays must contain at least 500 words but no more than 1,000 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography, or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as one (1) word. (Deductions will be made for over/under limit. Words are to be counted manually).
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with Page 1, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. An essay may be written in only English.

Scoring of Contest

Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.

1. Material Organization (Logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic): 30 points

2. Creativity: 10 points
3. Vocabulary and Style (Phrasing and continuity): 30 points
4. Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling: 20 points
5. Neatness: 5 points
5. Adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format): 5 points

Penalties/Eliminations will be made based upon:

1. Failure to list official topic
2. Failure to accurately identify the total number of words
3. Failure to type essay and double-space
4. Failure to stay within the 500-1,000 word limit
5. Self-identification

All items must be received by the Mayor's Office Essay Chair no later than Midnight March 8, 2021!